

A message was received from the Governor, transmitting the following communication :

*Gentlemen of the Senate,*

*and of the House of Representatives :*

I return herewith to the Senate, an act to incorporate the Austin City Bridge Company :

This act authorizes the corporation created by it to construct a bridge across the Colorado river, anywhere in the limits of the city of Austin, or the town tract adjoining, within five years from this time. These limits have a front on the river, of about two miles, and this Charter, in effect, gives this company the exclusive privileges of building a bridge anywhere in these limits for five years, because until this company shall have erected its bridge, its rights extend over the entire limits named.

I think the company ought to be required to designate the site of its bridge, within one or two years at the most, for it is by no means improbable that long before the expiration of five years, a company may be organized, which will undertake the construction of a bridge within these limits for the privi-

lege of charging half the rate of toll, that this company is authorized to charge.

Another serious objection to this Charter is, that it has fifty years to run, and the tolls are established for all that time, at rates suited to the present travel. In all such Charters the right to change and regulate the tolls from time to time, should be retained by the Legislature.

These matters may be thought by some, not worthy of consideration at this time, but should it so happen that this company shall select the only suitable site for the erection of a bridge in the vicinity of this city, and acquire the right of exacting tolls for fifty years at rates which will hereafter be considered exorbitant—the question will then be asked why proper restrictions were not placed in this Charter to protect the public from imposition and extortion. Being unwilling to approve this Charter, without the restrictions indicated, it is returned to you for reconsideration.

E. M. PEASE.